Appl. No. 10/682,045 Amdt. dated December 22, 2004

Reply to Office action of September 22, 2004

In the Claims:

Claims 1-3, 11-14 and 16 are canceled herein. The remaining claims are not amended in this response and have been indicated as allowable..

- 1. (canceled).
- 2. (canceled).
- (canceled)
- 4. (previously presented) A method for preparing ferric citrate comprising:

mixing solid citric acid with a solid ferric salt to form a mixture;

adding alcohol to the mixture; and filtering the mixture to obtain solid ferric citrate.

- 5. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 4, which further comprises drying said solid ferric citrate by heat.
- 6. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said solid ferric citrate is dried at 30°C to 120°C.
- 7. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim
 4, which further comprises purifying said solid ferric citrate by
 mixing with alcohol and filtering the mixture one or more times.
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